

## 2005 SENATE RESOLUTION 16

March 8, 2006 – Introduced by Senators OLSEN, JAUCH, DARLING, HARSDORF, ERPENBACH, MILLER, HANSEN and S. FITZGERALD. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1     **Relating to:** requesting a summit on civic education and providing for the  
2             preparation of a report and recommendations to promote and enhance civic  
3             education in Wisconsin schools.

4             Whereas, civic education encourages young people to be thoughtful and  
5     productive members of their communities and future leaders of the state of  
6     Wisconsin; and

7             Whereas, it is essential to the future health of our representative democracy  
8     that all young people be knowledgeable about democratic principles and practices,  
9     engaged in their communities and in politics, and committed to the public good; and

10            Whereas, on the National Assessment of Educational Progress in 1998, 75  
11     percent of pupils scored at “basic” or “below basic” levels; and

12            Whereas, according to *The Civic and Political Health of the Nation: A*  
13     *Generational Portrait*, nearly one-half of 15- to 25-year-olds indicate that civic  
14     education increases their interest and participation in civic affairs; and

1           Whereas, individuals who have a clear understanding of the rights and  
2 responsibilities of citizen in a representative democracy are more likely to exercise  
3 those rights and responsibilities; and

4           Whereas, according to the Center for Information and Research on Civic  
5 Learning and Engagement, only 42 percent of eligible 18- to 24-year-olds voted in  
6 the 2004 presidential election; and

7           Whereas, service learning and project-based civic learning have consistently  
8 been shown to engage pupils in learning, improve their attitudes toward school, and  
9 have positive effects on their civic skills, knowledge, and abilities; and

10           Whereas, providing civic education is a core mission of Wisconsin elementary  
11 and secondary schools and is explicitly recognized as an educational goal under s.  
12 118.01 (2) (c) of the statutes; and

13           Whereas, civic education is crucial to the long-term social and political health  
14 of Wisconsin; now, therefore, be it

15           ***Resolved by the senate, That*** the members of the Wisconsin senate request  
16 the state superintendent of public instruction, in cooperation with the governor of  
17 Wisconsin, to convene a summit on civic education with the goals of developing a  
18 strategy for promoting and enhancing civic education within the state and  
19 recommending a plan for improving civic education in the state's public elementary  
20 and secondary schools; and, be it further

21           ***Resolved, That*** if a summit on civic education is convened, the delegates shall  
22 include the Wisconsin delegates to the congressional conferences on civic education,  
23 and shall include a diverse range of other delegates, including elected officials;  
24 students, teachers, and administrators from elementary and secondary education;

1 members of the judiciary; representatives of civic organizations; representatives of  
2 the media; and other public members; and, be it further

3 ***Resolved, That*** if a summit on civic education is convened, the delegates shall  
4 provide a report, with their findings and recommendations for future action, to the  
5 president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly by December 1, 2006.

6 (END)